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I prefer to play my Gibson Mastertone Tenor Banjo without a resonator. So I had the thought last week that I could improve its volume and sound quality by simply resting its flange on a small, open beechwood cigar box placed in my lap. (I usually play in a seated position.) The sound quality was poor but the increase in volume was very impressive. So today I went to a nearby "Rockler" woodworking store and purchased a small, smooth rectangular board of walnut measuring 12" x 5-13/16" and 3/4" thick. The store clerk cut it for me free and the cost of the board was only \$6.39, sales tax included. (I selected walnut because five string player and regular contributor to Banjo Newsletter, Bob Piekiet, ("Earl's Way"), favors walnut as a wood for banjo construction and I value his advice.)

I brought the short walnut board home, placed it in my lap, played the banjo and could not believe the beautiful and very loud sound coming from the banjo! Keep in mind that my only effort was driving to the store and back and my only expense was \$6.39 plus the gas to get there and back!

I'll post some recordings on my website when I find the time but they will be tenor banjo recordings and most will want to hear the sound of this "Walnut Board Resonator" on a five string banjo. Any volunteers?

I will post my ideas why I think it works so well on my website soon. But in the meantime: I think that the board receives surface acoustic waves from the banjo's flange at a point, (which is ideal for sound quality), amplifies the waves by reflection ("constructive interference"), gives them a beautiful walnut timbre, and then returns them to the banjo (waves travel through a contact point both ways). So the banjo, not the board, creates most of the very loud and beautiful audible sound.

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